Antiostelma (Asclepiadaceae), a New Genus from China

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ABSTRACT. *Antiostelma* (Asclepiadaceae), previously recognized as a section of *Hoya*, is raised to generic rank. The new combinations *Antiostelma lantsangense* (Tsiang & P. T. Li) P. T. Li and *A. manipurense* (D. B. Deb) P. T. Li are proposed.

As a result of recent study of Chinese material of Asclepiadaceae and Apocynaceae from the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Smithsonian Institution, Harvard University, and the California Academy of Sciences, and during preparation of the accounts of these families for the *Flora of China*, it became evident that the delimitation of certain genera needed critical study, and several nomenclatural adjustments needed to be made. This publication deals with a new genus of Asclepiadaceae, *Antiostelma*. It was originally described as a monotypic section of *Hoya* R. Br. The new combinations are proposed in order to make the names available for the *Flora of China* and other floristic works in progress.

Antiostelma (Tsiang & P. T. Li) P. T. Li, comb. et stat. nov. Basionym: *Hoya* sect. *Antiostelma* Tsiang & P. T. Li, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 12: 126. 1974. TYPE: *Antiostelma lantsangensis* (Tsiang & P. T. Li) P. T. Li.

Lacticiferous epiphytic subshrubs. Leaves opposite, obdeltoid or obovate. Cymes extra-axillary, umbellate, subsessile or sessile. Calyx eglandular inside; corolla cylindric, lobes erect, aestivation twisted leftward; corona lobes 5, fleshy, erect, quadrate, adnate adaxially to gynostegium, bilateral margin manifestly recurved at back; stamens 5, anthers erect, with acuminate apical membranes; pollinia subquadrate, basal margin translucent; ovaries free; style apex beaked, exceeding apical membrane of anthers. Follicles linear-lanceolate. Seeds comose.

Antiostelma includes two species, *A. lantsangensis* and *A. manipurense*, that are endemic to China and India, respectively. The genus was originally recognized as a section of *Hoya* R. Br. (Tsiang & Li, 1974, 1977), but critical examination of several collections reveal that it is best treated as an independent genus readily distinguished from *Hoya* and *Dischidia* by the several characters summarized in Table 1.

The two species of *Antiostelma* are easily distinguished by the following key.

1a. Branches and leaves glabrous; leaf apex retuse; China ..... *A. lantsangense*
1b. Branches and leaves densely pubescent; leaf apex truncate; India ..... *A. manipurense*

Antiostelma lantsangense (Tsiang & P. T. Li) P. T. Li, comb. nov. Basionym: *Hoya lantsangensis* Tsiang & P. T. Li, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 12: 126. 1974. TYPE: China. Yunnan:

TABLE 1. Comparison of *Antiostelma*, *Hoya*, and *Dischidia*.

	Antiostelma	*Hoya*	*Dischidia*
Corolla	cylindric	rotate	urceolate
Aestivation	twisted leftward	valvate	valvate
Corolla lobes	erect, much shorter than tube	reflexed, as long as or longer than tube	patent, shorter than tube
Corona lobes	erect, quadrate	stellate-patent, ovate or elliptic	erect, anchor-shaped
Caudicle	not dilated	not dilated	apex dilated
Style apex	exserted from apical anther membranes	included in apical anther membranes	included in apical anther membranes
Inflorescence	sessile or subsessile	long-peduncled	short-peduncled

Mo-Jiang, 1,000 m, *A. Henry 13689* (holotype, NY; isotype, IBSC).

Antiostelma manipurense (D. B. Deb) P. T. Li, comb. nov. Basionym: *Hoya manipurensis* D. B. Deb, J. Indian Bot. Soc. 34: 50. 1955. TYPE: India. Manipur, Litan, 1 Sep. 1953, *D. B. Deb 1081* (holotype, CAL).

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Literature Cited

Tsiang, Y. & P. T. Li. 1974. Praecursers Flora Asclepiadacearum Sinensium. Acta Phytotax. Sin. 12: 79–149.

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Note Added in Proof

M. Gilbert (MO) recently brought to our attention the fact that Maxwell & van Donkelaar (Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam Soc. 39: 78. 1991) have treated, with scant discussion, *Hoya lantsangensis* as a synonym of *Dischidia obcordata* and thus, by implication, *Hoya* sect. *Antiostelma*, which was termed "an erroneous and quite unnecessary taxonomic complication," as a synonym of *Dischidia*.—*Editor*